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# (12) United States Patent Collet et al.

# (54) INTERACTIVE AVATAR IN MESSAGING ENVIRONMENT

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This patent is subject to a terminal dis-

claimer.

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#### (58) Field of Classification Search

CPC ...... H04L 51/08; H04L 51/22 See application file for complete search history.

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# (57) ABSTRACT

A sender sends an email message to a receiver. The message includes an avatar representing the sender. Upon receiving the message, if the receiver has a question related to the message, the receiver sends the question to the sender via the avatar. After receiving the question, the avatar remote server device correlates the question with the message through a MSG-ID associated with the receiver or avatar. The avatar remote server device parses and analyzes the question and then searches mailboxes, agendas, previous answers, toDoLists, folders, resumes, and/or address books of the sender to find a corresponding answer for the question. Then, the avatar remote server device provides the answer to the receiver via the avatar. Alternatively, upon receiving the question, the avatar remote server device sends a notification (Continued)

